

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 280477

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

1. BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR POPOV INFORMED ARMITAGE (EUR) NOVEMBER 25 THAT THE GOB IS READY IN PRINCIPLE TO SEND AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS, AS SUGGESTED BY THE US, TO CONFER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. HOWEVER, BEFORE PROPOSING A TIME FOR THEIR VISIT THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WISHES TO HAVE A CLEAR BASIS FOR THEIR DISCUSSIONS. POPOV SUGGESTED THAT THE USG EITHER EXAMINE AND COMMENT ON THE BULGARIAN DRAFT AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENTS HANDED OVER IN ;974 AND ;975 OR PROPOSE ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE. ARMITAGE EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD IN MIND EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EXPERTS BEFORE ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF DRAFT LANGUAGE. POPOV REPEATED THAT THE BULGARIANS NEED SOME INDICATION OF WHAT THE EXPERTS WOULD BE DISCUSSING TO ENABLE THEM TO PLAN FOR A TRIP- ARMITAGE INSISTED THAT WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE DRAFT LANGUAGE AT PRESENT, AS THIS WOULD BE BETTER WORKED OUT FOLLOWING THE EXPERTS

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MEETING. BUT WE WOULD UNDERTAKE TO PROVIDE SOME COMMENTS

WHICH MIGHT SERVE AS A BASIS FOR PREPARING A TRIP.

2. FOR THE PRESENT ABOVE IS FYI ONLY. WE ARE EXPLORING
THIS SUBJECT FURTHER WITH AGRICULTURE AND WILL BE IN TOUCH
WITH YOU LATER NEXT WEEK. KISSINGER

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